

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7713

BILL NUMBER: HB 1459

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 8, 2003

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Utility Service During the Heating Season.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Brown C

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 X DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill prohibits an electric or a gas utility from terminating residential service provided to a customer during the heating season if the customer is eligible for and has applied for emergency energy assistance. For any residential customer whose account is delinquent during the heating season, It requires a utility to comply with certain notice requirements before terminating service to the customer. The bill requires a utility to offer a residential customer a deferred payment plan for past due amounts and a levelized payment plan for past due and future charges. It prohibits a utility from terminating service during the heating season if a customer has entered into a deferred payment plan and has not defaulted on the plan. The bill allows a utility to terminate service not earlier than 14 days after providing the notice of termination required during the heating season, if the customer has not entered into a deferred or levelized payment plan with the utility or provided evidence that the customer has applied for emergency energy assistance.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures: While the provisions in this bill will require the IURC to evaluate current procedure, they are not expected to have a significant fiscal impact on the Commission.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission; Office of the Utility Consumer Counselor

Local Agencies Affected: Municipally owned utilities would be subject to the bill's provisions.

Information Sources:

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